

YUKON INDIAN CLAIM  
AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE

GENERAL SUMMARY

MAY 1 1984

Financial Compensation

Some details of the proposed financial compensation package were released in December 1982.

The agreement provides for nearly \$190 million to be paid to the beneficiaries. Once final settlement is reached, \$5 million would be paid for settlement implementation and related training purposes. Over the following 20 years, the beneficiaries would receive another \$130 million in financial compensation for aboriginal title and a further \$53.69 million in return for the termination of existing government programs for status Indians in Yukon; these payments would reach an expected value of \$540 million after inflation is taken into account.

To assist Yukon Indians in planning and developing programs and economic opportunities, the federal government will grant them a \$15 million interest-free advance against their settlement compensation. This money would be provided in two stages -- \$10 million on signing of the Agreement in Principle and \$5 million on execution of a Final Agreement.

Lands

Yukon Indians would receive title in fee simple, with subsurface rights, to something over 20 000 square kilometres of land in Yukon on final settlement of their claim; the exact terms of the subsurface provision are yet to be finalized by the three parties. Land selections have been completed for 10 of the 12 bands.

Specific details, including locations, cannot be released until land selections are complete and the agreement in principle has been ratified.

Government Programs

Of the total financial compensation, \$53.69 million is intended as compensation for the termination of existing government programs for status Indians in Yukon. Indians in Yukon will be fully eligible for universal programs provided by the governments of Yukon and Canada. In addition, special measures will apply in the areas of education, health, social services and justice.

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Background/Documentation

### Land Use Planning and Environmental Assessment

Yukon Indian participation in land use planning and environmental assessment in Yukon was worked out in a proposed sub-agreement announced in May 1982.

Under the terms of this agreement, Yukon Indians would be guaranteed a minimum of 25 per cent membership on boards, committees or commissions created to assist or advise government in land and water management in Yukon.

### Hunting

Under the terms of an agreement announced in November 1981, status Indians in Yukon would give up their existing unlimited hunting rights in exchange for the right of all beneficiaries to 50 per cent of the annual allowable quotas for moose and caribou in Yukon. They would also participate on a 50/50 basis with the Government of Yukon on a territorial Wildlife Management Board.

Hunting laws and regulations would apply to natives and non-natives alike.

### Fishing and Trapping Rights

The proposed agreement on fishing and trapping was announced in December 1981.

Under this agreement, Yukon Indians would continue to take fish for food at current levels. Sport fishing would take precedence over commercial fisheries. Where fish populations are considered to be sufficient for commercial fishing, the agreement calls for a limited entry system that would assist Yukon Indians to acquire commercial licences. Fish management and licensing would continue to be a federal responsibility, but the beneficiaries would be part of a consultation process.

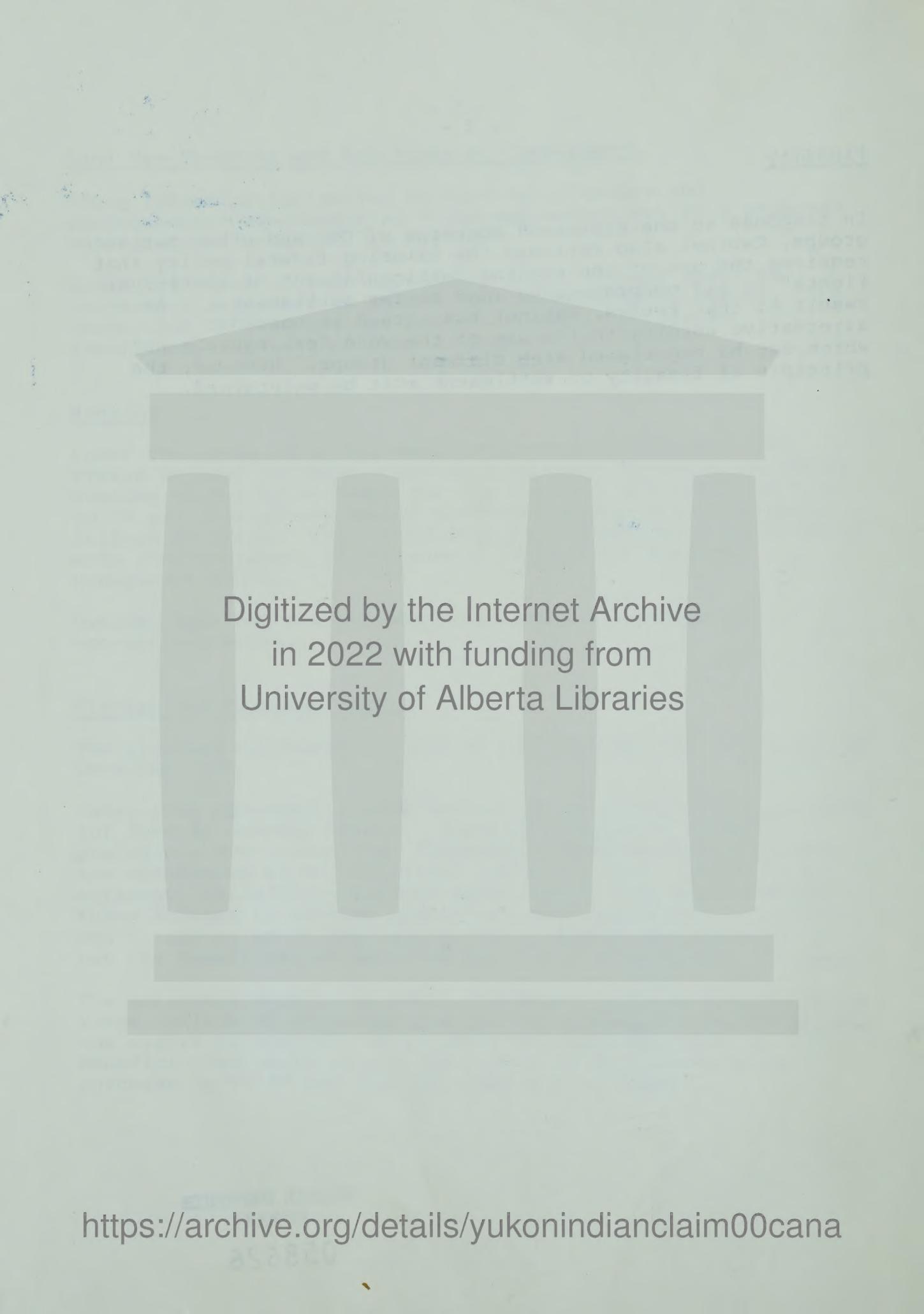
The agreement would also grant trapping rights in perpetuity to Yukon Indians at approximately current levels, while protecting the rights of non-natives to continue trapping. The beneficiaries would be granted rights of first refusal to purchase up to 70 per cent of traplines in Yukon.

Finality

In response to the expressed concerns of CYI and other native groups, Cabinet also reviewed the existing federal policy that requires the use of the wording "extinguishment of aboriginal rights" in all comprehensive land claims settlements. As a result of that review, Cabinet has agreed to consider alternative wording to the use of the word "extinguishment", which may be negotiated with claimant groups. However, the principle of finality of settlement must be maintained.

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Yukon Indian claim agreement in  
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